

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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DEPT ALSO PASS TO DR EHRLICH OIH/DHEW

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, WHO, UR

SUBJECT: WHO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE, USSR, 1978

1. THE WHO PHC CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ALMA ATA, USSR, IN SEPTEMBER 1978, WAS FULLY DISCUSSED BY EB MEMBERS THROUGHOUT AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 18. POINTS TO EMERGE WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. DR VENEDICTOV (USSR) ASSURED EB THAT HOST COUNTRY WOULD MAKE SIZABLE IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION. NO SUMS MENTIONED, BUT HE ASSURED ADG FURTH PRIVATELY WHO WOULD BE INFORMED PRIOR TO WHA. FURTH'S OPINION IS THAT IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION WILL FALL BETWEEN \$375,000 AND \$480,000.

B. ONE REASONS SOVIET MEMBER GAVE FOR NOT YET ANNOUNCING SOVIET CONTRIBUTION WAS THAT WHO BUDGET FOR CONFERENCE (\$2,206,000) IS TOO HIGH. FYI: DG INFORMED EB THAT STAFF SUPPORT REQUIRED WILL BE CLOSE TO 500, INCLUDING ONLY 30 TECHNICAL, BECAUSE OF REQUIREMENT TO SERVICE FIVE WORKING LANGUAGES. SOVIET GOVERNMENT PREFERS TO WAIT UNTIL BUDGET ECONOMIES EFFECTED AND FURTHER EXTRA BUDGETARY ASSISTANCE SOUGHT. FINNISH MEMBER SUGGESTED "SPECIAL FUND" BE SET UP FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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C. VARIOUS MEMBERS SUGGESTED WHO SHOULD REDUCE FROM THREE TO TWO OR ONE THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES WHOSE TRANSPORTATION AND PER DIEM WILL BE PAID BY WHO. SECRETARIAT REMINDED BOARD THAT LAST YEAR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PHC WAS EMPOWERED TO TAKE DECISIONS, AND ONE TAKEN WAS THAT WHO WOULD COVER TRAVEL COSTS OF 3 DELEGATES PER COUNTRY. (AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT BEING

POUCHED.) ON THIS BASIS, THE 7-DAY PHC CONFERENCE HAS ALREADY BEEN STRUCTURED ON A TRI-COMMITTEE BASIS FOR ONE PARTICIPANT PER MEMBER STATE PER COMMITTEE (SEE PARA 2 FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENT).

D. CONFERENCE STILL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1978, BUT BOARD REQUESTED SECRETARIAT AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS TO WORK OUT WITH HOST COUNTRY WHICH WEEK IN SEPTEMBER WILL HAVE LEAST ADVERSE EFFECT ON PERVIOUSLY SCHEDULED REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND REPORT TO WHA. USSR PREFERS FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.'

E. TANZANIAN MEMBER SET A BALANCED TONE BY REMINDING BOARD THAT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CONFERENCE AND ITS PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE NOT GOING TO BE SOLVED BY THIS CONFERENCE. SWAZI-LAND MEMBER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A PROTOTYPE PHC PROGRAM MIGHT EMERGE FROM THE CONFERENCE THAT WHO REGIONAL OFFICES COULD TRY OUT IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

F. DR TEJADA'S SUMMARY REINFORCED THAT A) WHO IS TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE CONFERENCE DOES NOT BECOME AN ISOLATED EVENT; B) THE CONFERENCE, IF WELL PLANNED, CAN BECOME A CATALYST FOR PHC; C) THE SECRETARIAT DOES HAVE THE CAPACITY FOR CARRYING OUT PREPARATORY TASKS IN 1977; D) SOME BUDGET REDUCTIONS MAY BE POSSIBLE IN PRINTING AND DOCUMENTATION COSTS; E) ANY REDUCTION OF THREE DELEGATES TO BE INVITED AND PAID BY WHO WOULD DESTROY CONFERENCE DIALOGUE AND MAKE IT MERELY A TECHNICAL CONFERENCE.

G. MEMBERS AGREED TO FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE'S SUGGESTION THAT PHC CONFERENCE BUDGET BE APPROVED ON CONDITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT SECRETARIAT SEEK FURTHER REDUCTIONS. LATEST ESTIMATE IS THERE WILL BE 500 PARTICIPANTS IN CONFERENCE PLUS STAFF SUPPORT (PARA 1B), MAHLER CONCLUDED PHC DISCUSSIONS BY OBSERVING \$2,206,000 CONFERENCE BUDGET CAN BE REDUCED IMMEDIATELY IN VIEW OF BOARD'S ACCEPTANCE OF \$100,000 FROM UNICEF FOR CONFERENCE.

2. COMMENT. MISSION OFFICER ATTENDED PRIVATE PRE-STRATEGY MEETING CHAIRED BY TEJADA AND FURTH (ATTENDED BY UK, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND FRG). SUPPORT WAS REQUESTED FOR WHO PAYMENT OF TRAVEL COSTS FOR ALL THREE DELEGATES PER COUNTRY IN ORDER TO KEEP SOVIETS FROM INVITING AND PAYING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS, THEREBY WRESTING CONTROL OF CONFERENCE FROM WHO AND OBTAINING OTHER POLITICAL ADVANTAGES. CATTO

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